

COTTAGE BAKERY FROM HOME

Can I sell from my kitchen in Cabarrus County, North Carolina?

Home kitchen sales. Not a shop or rented commercial kitchen. Last verified 2026-05-05.

STATE FOOD PERMIT	HOME OCCUPATION	BUSINESS LICENSE	SALES CAP
Yes	Conditional	Varies	—

NORTH CAROLINA RULES. OPEN THESE FIRST.

[North Carolina permits PDF](#)

[North Carolina cottage food law page](#)

[North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services cottage food program](#)

[Statute: 02 NCAC 9C.0307](#)

NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This is what it takes to sell from a home kitchen in Cabarrus County. Confirm each step with Planning, Health, and the license office before you sell.

What you need

Cabarrus County, North Carolina. File every Yes. Confirm every Check or Ask. Stay under the sales cap.

STATE FOOD PERMIT

Yes

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION / ZONING

Conditional

LOCAL HEALTH

Yes

BUSINESS LICENSE

Varies

PICKUP AT THE HOUSE

Yes

HOME KITCHEN ONLY

If you want a shop or a rented commercial kitchen, these rows do not apply.

CONTINUE ONLINE

North Carolina permits PDF →

<https://crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf>

North Carolina cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina>

Permit page for this place →

<https://crosodo.com/what-permits/north-carolina/cabarrus-county>

Cabarrus County cottage food law page →

<https://crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/cabarrus-county>

Not legal advice. Rules change. Confirm with the office before you file.

Where to file

State

North Carolina registration: Yes. Routine kitchen inspection: Yes. Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.

North Carolina permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf

State law page: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Statute: [02 NCAC 9C.0307](#)

Zoning / home occupation

Conditional. NC home processor program requires applicants to verify with local county/city planning department that operating a food business is permitted at the residence and whether permits are required. Cabarrus County Planning/Zoning and relevant municipalities (Concord, Kannapolis, etc.) may require a home occupation permit. HOA approval is also recommended. Applicants must document this on the NCDA&CS application (Section 2).

Health

Yes. Initial inspection required before operating. NCDA&CS Food Regulatory Specialist contacts applicant 8-12 weeks after application submission to arrange inspection. Post-approval inspections may occur; no permit is issued but an inspection report and 'Notice of Inspection' are provided. Annual re-inspection is required to maintain status.

Business license

Varies

Pickup / delivery

NC home processors may sell directly to consumers, at events, farmers markets, retail stores, and restaurants. No internet-only mail-order prohibition at state level; confirmation of zoning rules for home pickup recommended.

If you rent a commissary kitchen

NCDA or the local health department, depending on the food. North Carolina home processors register with NCDA. A commissary used as a food service kitchen is typically permitted by the local health department; a food manufacturing plant is NCDA. Ask the kitchen which license they operate under.

Official source: [NCDHHS food protection](#)

Local health office we have on file: <https://www.cabarruscounty.us>

This file is the home-kitchen path. A rented kitchen uses a different permit. Ask the kitchen manager which license they expect, then call the local health office.

SOURCES

<https://www.cabarruscounty.us>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/food-drug/fdpd-home-processing-app-pdf/download>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-and-drug-protection/home-processor-inspections>

Cabarrus County and nearby places

Regulation	Cabarrus County	Union County	Iredell County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet p...	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant	Pets in home disqualify applicant; no pets allowed in household during registration under GMP requirements (21 CFR 117 Subpart B).
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	NC home processors may sell directly to consumers, at events, farmers markets, retail stores, and restaurants. No internet-only mail-order ...	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after inspection. City of Monroe has municipal zoning.	Direct sales allowed at home, farmers markets, and retail stores. Online and mail order permitted. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Conditional	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se...	Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling...	Annual kitchen inspection required by NCDA&CS. Registration required. Pets in the home disqualify the applicant. Only shelf-stable, low-ris...
FOOD STORAGE	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products may be stored. Areas used for material/ingredient/equipment storage are included in t...	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products	Shelf-stable storage; products must not require refrigeration.
POPULATION	226,396	240,109	187,839

More pages for this place

These Crosodo pages cover the same home cottage-food path:

North Carolina permits PDF: crosodo.com/reports/pdf/permits/north-carolina.pdf

North Carolina cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina

Cabarrus County cottage food law: crosodo.com/states/north-carolina/cabarrus-county